Illegal power connections in the capital

729. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cases of theft of power are mounting in the capital with the connivance of DESU officials;

(b) whether DESU are giving illegal lines in some resettlement colonies and Group Housing Socities in the city;

(c) whether Government propose to check all the high tension wires passing over jhuggi clusters and over the industrial areas to find out the illegal power connections; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prices of Tyres

730. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Tyre Dealers' Federation has urged Government to immediately intervene into the price mechanism of tyres so that the benefits reach the actual users;

(b) whether the tyre manufacturers have again increased the prices of tyres despite directives by Government to the contrary; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what further steps Government propose to take to control the prices on tyres?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the information supplied by the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association, tyre companies have increased the prices of tyres in April this year on account of the increase in the rate of Excise Duty on tyres in the budget of 1990-91. There is no statutory control over the prices of automotives tyres. However, Government have placed specified categories of truck and bus tyres under O.G.L. at a reduced rate of duty for import by bulk consumers to keep a check on prices of these tyres. To encourage creation of fresh capacity for the manufacture of automotive tyres and tubes, the industry has been exempted from licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act and the application of Sections 21 and 22 of the MRTP Act. Government have also ensured maximisation of tyre production through continuous monitoring & regular interaction with the Industry. This has led to a substantial increase in production of bus and truck tyres in 1989 viz. 50.9 lakhs as compared to 48.7 lakhs in 1988 and 39.4 lakhs in 1987.

Production of bulk vitamins

731. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1459 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th March, 1990 and Unstarred Question 13 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the names of bulk vitamins being produced in the country and what are the names of producers of each;

(b) what was the production of each during the last three years ending 31st March, 1990; and

(c) what was the price of each before the announcement of DPCO, 1987 and what is the price as on the 25th April 1990?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Details

to the extent monitored, are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 40].

(c) Prices under DPCO, 1979 and as on 25th April, 1990 to the extent available are also given in a separate Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 41].

Oil production by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari Basin

732. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has recently announced that a well in the Krishna Godavari basin was producing about 500 barrels of oil a day;

(b) what is the actual cost of production and the commercial value of such a quantity of oil;

(c) what is the daily loss involved in producing 500 barrels of oil given the infra-structure, etc.; and

(d) whether such press releases are really a publicity gimmick to stave off criticism about the failure of ONGC to find oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir, The well Mori-1 drilled on Mori prospect SE of Narsapur town on initial testing has produced oil and gas at the rate of 595 barrels per day and 92,081 cubic metres per day respectively.

(b) and (c). The commercial value on the find cost of its production and the economics of production would be known only after the delineation of the prospect is complete and the prospect is evaluated.

(d) No, Sir. It is an important find giving lead to further exploration in the area.

Alarming increase in the number of cases of food poisoning

733. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarming increase in the incidents of food poisoning in the country during the last few months leading to deaths and illness of people;

(b) whether it is a fact that pesticides used for storing foodgrains are responsible for such incidents; and

(c) if so, what precautionary steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Stoppage of drilling work by ONGC in Gujarat

734. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has stopped drilling work in Gujarat at many spots;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how many sites were kept closed by ONGC in District Kutch of Gujarat;

(d) whether there is any programme to restart the work at these spots; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No. Sir. Drilling operations in Gujarat are being conducted as per the approved plan programme.